

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

POL 14 VIETS

(502)

000

Saigon 7104

RR RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 7104 2710335 CONFIDENTIAL

Action: R 280248Z SEP 66
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

E TO SECSTATE WASHDC

Info: STATE GRNC

BT

S CONFIDENTIAL SAIGON 7104

EXCISE

025249

SEPT 28

1966 SEP 28 AM 12 26

AH REF EMBTEL 6949, SEPT 26

SUBJECT: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY: CONVERSATIONS WITH
DEPUTY AND DEPUTY

AL

SIA
SC
IR
EA
SA
ED
ED

1. [] IS ELDERLY CATHOLIC AND MILITANT ANTI-COMMUNIST. HE PREFERRED A PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM. [] THINKS PEOPLE SHOULD BE MORE SYMPATHETIC TOWARDS MILITARY ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT CLEAR WHAT THEIR ROLE IN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE. HE ATTENDED SOUTHERN DEPUTIES CONFERENCE IN CAN THO (REFTEL) AND LIKES IDEA OF SOUTHERN BLOC BUT HE SAYS HE AND OTHER CATHOLICS SUSPICIOUS OF HOA HAO BLOC TRYING TO USE SOUTHERN UNITY FOR OWN ENDS. HE INTENDS TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT HOA HAO WILL DO BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO COOPERATE WITH THEM. [] SAID CATHOLICS PLANNED TO MEET ON AFTERNOON SEPT 26 TO PLAN STRATEGY. HE BELIEVES DR PHAN QUAN DAN HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF BEING ELECTED ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT.

2. [] IS A NOMINAL BUDDHIST, SCHOOL TEACHER AND YOUNG INTELLECTUAL. HE WOULD PREFER PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM WITH ADEQUATE CHECKS TO AVOID DIEM-LIKE DICTATORSHIP. HE STRONGLY DESIRES TO BE ON CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND FEELS EDUCATORS SHOULD TAKE LEADING ROLE IN DRAFTING CONSTITUTION AND IN RESULTING GOVERNMENT. MILITARY SHOULD TAKE BACK SEAT. HE REACTED VERY FAVORABLY TO CAN THO SOUTHERN BLOC MEETING. HE IS SUSPICIOUS BP HOA HAO BUT THINKS THEY CAN BE CONTAINED WITHIN SOUTHERN BLOC. ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF MOVEMENT FOR RENAISSANCE OF SOUTH CLAIM [] IS A MEMBER HE ADMITS ONLY INDIRECT ASSOCIATION WITH THEM. HE FEELS MOST SOUTHERNERS WILL SUPPORT TRAN VAN VAN FOR ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT.

FILMED BY RS/A

3. [] DEPUTIES APPEARED SUSPICIOUS THAT HOA HAO INTENDS TO MAKE HOA HAO CENTRAL CHURCH HEADQUARTERS AT 12 THI XUAN STREET IN SAIGON HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOUTHERN BLOC. APPARENTLY ALL SOUTHERN DEPUTIES HAVE RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO CONSULT WITH HOA HAO AT THAT ADDRESS. REACTION OF SOME WILL PROBABLY BE NEGATIVE LIKE

LODGE

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE 10/6/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED